

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2014

Dan Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wild Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC

Dear Director Ashe:

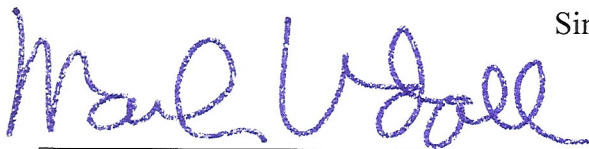
We write to request an extension of the deadline for the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) final listing and critical habitat decisions on the Gunnison sage grouse. We also request that you begin a substantive dialog with the relevant parties, including those involved in litigation over the species in question, to ensure that our request for a prompt extension can be realized. The court-mandated deadline of May 12, 2014 is fast-approaching, yet more time is needed for the local communities to implement good-faith conservation efforts and for the Service to address their outstanding questions.

The proposal to list the Gunnison sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has engendered great interest and concern in Southwest Colorado's communities and across our entire state. We feel that additional time is needed to consider recent and ongoing local habitat conservation efforts. We also feel a final listing decision handed down on May 12th appears likely to be followed by years of protracted litigation, regardless of FWS' decision. Additional litigation will only prolong uncertainty and may further imperil the bird's habitat while the matter is considered by the courts.

We know that you are weighing many factors as you consider this request and respect your commitment to the long-term conservation of the species. We are available to meet with you or the other parties involved in the decision to help facilitate this much-needed extension.

Thank you for your continued efforts on this matter and your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

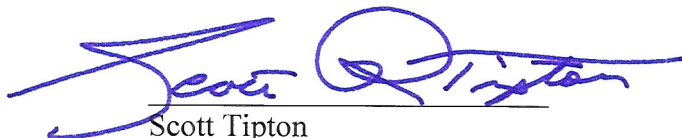
Sincerely,



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress